

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting a first command from a second device being an input/output control hub (ICH) to a first device being a trusted platform module (TPM);

generating a long term value within ~~a~~the first device, the long term value generated upon detecting an initial power-up sequence and receipt of information from ~~a~~the second device;

permanently storing the long term value within a protected area of an internal memory of the first device;

providing the long term value to the second device communicatively coupled to the first device;

generating a short term value within the first device, the short term value is modified after each power cycle;

providing the short term value to the second device;

generating a secret value within the first device after each power cycle, the secret value being a combination of both the long term value and the short term value; and

generating the secret value within the second device based on the long term value and the short term value.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the long term value is generated in response to the initial power-up sequence when the first device is in communication with the second device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein prior generating the short term value, the method further comprises:

transmitting a second command from the second device to the first device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the combination is a result produced by successively performing a hashing operation on both the data and the short term value.

15-28. (Canceled).